# Department of Human Resources

### **ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE**

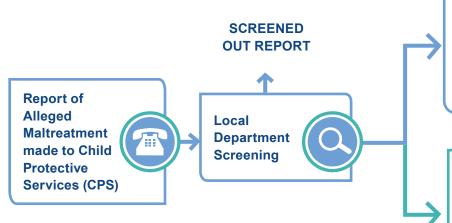


## What is Alternative Response? One Size Does Not Fit All.

Alternative Response treats low risk cases of child abuse and neglect differently by engaging families instead of investigating them. Alternative Response is a proven way to help keep kids safe and strengthen families in low risk cases.

## Investigative Response vs. **Alternative Response**

Cases that are not screened out will be assigned to one of two tracks: Investigative Response or Alternative Response. Investigative Responses will be handled the same way they are today, resulting in a formal finding. Low risk reports can be pursued through Alternative Response. Both approaches address the family's needs and put in place appropriate measures to protect the child.



#### **INVESTIGATIVE RESPONSE:**

Appropriate for high risk cases (sexual abuse, death or serious physical or mental injury)

Focus is a formal finding against the alleged abuser



#### **ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE: FAMILY ASSESSMENT**

Appropriate for low risk reports with no serious physical or mental injury to the child

No formal finding; work with families to provide referrals and services.

2,361 Avg. # of child maltreatment reports received per month (10 initial counties).



Avg. # of new screened in **CPS** cases started per month (10 initial counties).

**Percent of CPS** cases referred to **Alternative Response** in 10 initial counties.

Alternative Response will be phased in across Maryland with full implementation expected by July 2014.

dhr.maryland.gov/alternativeresponse

